

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 3, replace paragraph at lines 13-16 with the following:

Safety is another important ~~considerations~~consideration in optical data readers. In particular, with laser-based barcode scanners, it is desirable to minimize exposure to laser light.

On page 10, replace paragraph at lines 9-26 with the following:

For example, the illustrated arrangement may be used to implement a volume control function that is actuated when an operator places his hand (or another object) in front of an "active region" 131 (shown in FIG. 1B) of the window 130 in the immediate vicinity of the light source 120 and light detector 140 (e.g., right up against the window 130, or within an inch of the window). Preferably, the active region 131 is marked in a suitable manner or way on the outer face of the window 130. Because actuation is desired only when the operator's hand (or other object) is very close to the active region 131 of the window 130, a relatively high threshold should be selected to implement this control function. With a high threshold, objects at distant and intermediate distances will not reflect sufficient light onto the light detector 140 to exceed the threshold, and only objects in the immediate vicinity of the active region will reflect sufficient light to exceed the threshold.

On page 12, replace paragraph at lines 3-23 with the following:

FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram of another preferred data reader system 200, which is similar to the FIG. 1A-1B embodiment, but incorporates a number of additional features. The data reader system 200 includes an optical data reader subsystem 270 including a photodetector 275 located behind a window 230, configured to receive its optical input ~~244~~243 through the window 230. A light source 220 is preferably positioned behind the window 230, aimed to illuminate objects 234 located in front of the window 230. A light detector 240 is located behind the window 230, and is aimed to receive light from the light source 220 that has been reflected by objects 234 located in front of the window 230. An output 248 of the light detector 240 is compared to a set of thresholds applied to comparators 261 through 263. The outputs of the comparators 261 through 263 are provided to a control interface 271, which controls certain aspects of the operation of the optical data reader 270. An optional UART 272 receives an input from the light detector 240 via the A/D converter 255, and controls the light source 220 via the D/A converter 256.

On page 17, replace paragraph at lines 14-26 with the following:

Unless appropriate precautions are taken, ambient light 238 arriving at the light detector ~~220~~240 can be misinterpreted as being light 236 that originated in the light source 220 and was reflected by the object 234, which could

make the outputs of the comparators 261 through 263 unreliable. For example, if sufficient ambient light is detected by the light detector 240, the output of the comparator 262 would indicate that an object is present in the vicinity of the window 230 when no object is actually present. Ambient light can be particularly troublesome when glass detection is implemented, because glass detection requires the measurement of relatively low light levels.

On page 19, replace paragraph at lines 10-24 with the following:

Returning now to FIG. 2, ~~The~~the modulated light 232 leaves the light detector 220 and travels outward through the window 230. A portion of the modulated light 232 is reflected back towards the light detector 240 (by either the window 230 or objects 234), as described above.